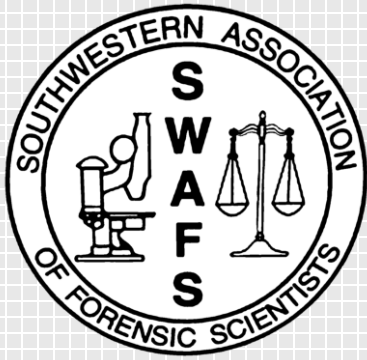




SWAFS

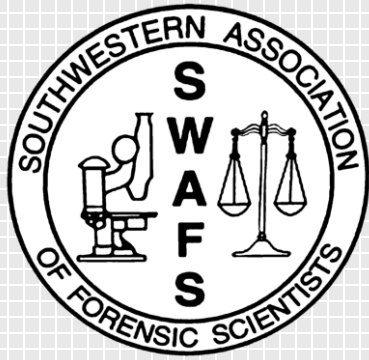
2024 Elections



**President-Elect
Candidate
Blake Kinder**



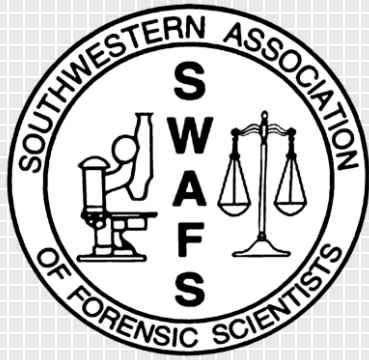
Hello, my name is Blake Kinder. I graduated from West Virginia University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science in Forensic and Investigative Sciences with an emphasis in Forensic Examinations and Forensic Biology. I have been employed with the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory since 2017 as a Forensic Scientist in Seized Drugs and am currently the Technical Leader. I also serve as the Editor-in-Chief of the WVSP Forensic Laboratory Newsletter. Previously, I worked for the Virginia Beach Forensic Services Unit (2010-2011), NMS Labs (2011-2012), and Rutgers University Cell and DNA Repository (2012-2017). My first SWAFS conference was in 2018. For the past four years, I have served on the Admissions Committee, presented at a SWAFS conference, served on the 2023 Meeting Advisory Committee, and I am currently serving my second year as a board member. I look forward to the opportunity of taking the next step in serving the association and its members by becoming President-Elect, with your support.



**President-Elect
Candidate
Maegan Huerta**



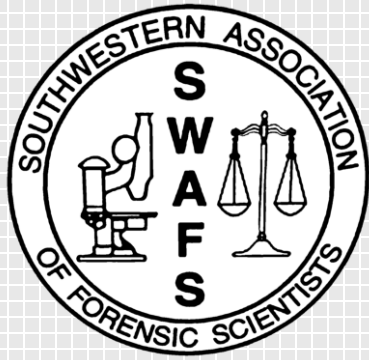
Maegan Huerta graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forensic Chemistry. She has been a Forensic Scientist with the Texas DPS Crime Laboratory since 2011, specializing in Blood Alcohol Analysis and Seized Drug Identification. In addition to her role as an analyst, Maegan has also been responsible for training new analysts, has served on the TX DPS Controlled Substance and Blood Alcohol Advisory Boards, and has participated as a technical assessor for ANAB and TX DPS internal audits. Maegan has been a SWAFS member since 2013 where she has served on the hosting committee for the 2014 Annual SWAFS Conference, the Scholarship Committee, Admissions Committee, Meeting Advisory Committee, and Board of Directors. She is grateful for the experiences SWAFS has given her and is excited for the opportunity to continue serving the organization.



**President-Elect
Candidate
Maria Olds**



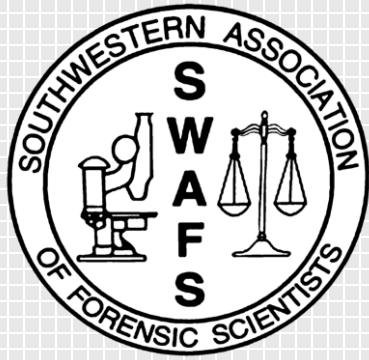
Maria Olds is currently a graduate student at the University of Texas at Arlington in the chemistry department (Advisor Dr. Dan Armstrong). Prior to returning to academia, Maria worked at the Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory for 6 years as a seized drug analyst and blood alcohol toxicologist. In addition to working at the crime laboratory, Maria also attained a Master of Science in Forensic Toxicology from the University of Florida, and authored five publications on blood alcohol concentration determination, two of which are review articles co-authored by Dr. A. W. Jones. Maria intends to continue studies related to forensics as part of her PhD studies, and maintains membership in SWAFS, SOFT, and SAT, as well as ABC certification.



**Secretary
Candidate
Terra Lucas**



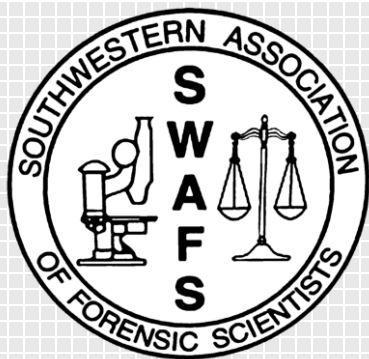
Terra Lucas earned a bachelor's degree in Chemistry with a minor in Forensic Science from Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI. She began her forensics career as a Crime Scene Specialist for the Little Rock Police Department in June, 2012. She then became a Forensic Drug Chemist at the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory in November, 2014 and was promoted to the Chief Forensic Chemist of the ASCL satellite lab in Lowell, AR in Oct. 2021. Terra is a Distinguished Member of SWASFS and has served on the Admissions Committee since 2016, chaired the Meeting Advisory Committee in 2020, and served as a Board of Directors member for the 2021/2022 term. She became a Drug Analysis Fellow with the American Board of Criminalistics in 2018 and became certified and competent as a Clandestine Laboratory Chemist in 2020. Terra is also a member of Clandestine Laboratory Investigating Chemists Association, serving as their Historian, a member of the Electronic Resources Committee, and a member of the 2021/2022 Audit Committee. In addition to her role as the Chief Forensic Chemist, Terra has trained new analysts, and performed method development, validations, and training for new analytical techniques. She has served as a Safety Officer, Grievance Officer, and on her laboratory's internal audit team and is currently a coordinator of ASCL's Summer Internship Program. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, camping, and hiking with her husband, yoga, and loves playing with her three little dogs Sophie, Stella, and Sadie.



**Board of Directors
Candidate
Christina Coucke-Garza**

Christina currently works as a Senior Drug Chemist at the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's in Fort Worth, Texas and has been there since 2006, working at the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Science (SWIFS) in Dallas, Texas previously. She graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from the University of Texas in Arlington(2000) and received her Master's of Science in Forensic Science from Marshall University in West Virginia(2003). She recently became a technical assessor for the ANSI National Accreditation Board(ANAB). Previously she was Treasurer for the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists for several years. She has been the Nominations chair for the Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists for the past 9 years and was also the Scholarship Chair for SWAFS for several years prior to that. She believes in what SWAFS represents –it is a forensic community where scientists from different areas can get together and make all fields of forensic science better by the sharing of knowledge.

Currently she lives in Cowtown with her husband Robert of 15 years and her daughter. She is a proud grandmother of 3 grandchildren from her step-children. In her spare time she is a fledgling hobby farmer who raises ducks and chickens.



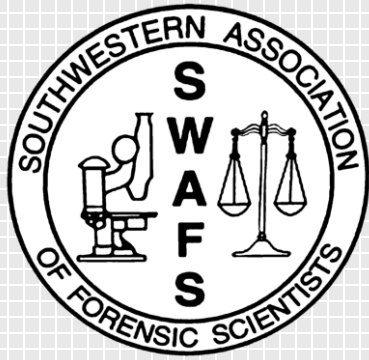
**Board of Directors
Candidate
Tamara Keller**



Tamara graduated from Northern Arizona University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminalistics/Forensic Chemistry. She joined the Drug Enforcement Administration South Central Laboratory in 1997 and continued her career as a Senior Forensic Chemist until her retirement in 2015. During her time at DEA, she investigated numerous clandestine labs, assisted with search warrants, and testified in court frequently. She is active in many professional organizations, including the Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (SWAFS) and the Texas Narcotics Association (TNOA). She has held many board positions and continues to be an active member today. She went back to graduate school at Oklahoma State University and completed her Master's in Forensic Science in 2022.

After retirement, Tamara joined the Waters Corporation and worked as a Chromatography/Chemistry Specialist, specializing in forensic applications, until 2023. In this role, she assisted customers with method development and chromatography challenges. Currently, Tamara is a Technical Trainer with 908 devices in the Field Forensics group. She focuses most of her work in the field of presumptive drug testing for law enforcement and laboratory personnel.

Tamara is married to her college love, Justin, and together are raising 3 boys. She spends most of her weekends at various sporting events watching her kids do what they love. Her hobbies include running, reading, baking and gardening. And, she adores her favorite dogs Lola and Winston!



Board of Directors Candidate Paul Yount



Paul Yount is excited to be nominated for a Board of Director position among The Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (SWAFS).

Paul is originally from Spokane, Washington and is currently a DNA Analyst at the Phoenix Police Department Crime Laboratory. Over the course of his education and career, Paul has had many opportunities to showcase his passion and dedication to forensic science. In 2019, he published a peer-reviewed article on bloodstain pattern analysis in the Intermountain Journal of Sciences and in 2021, he graduated with an MSFS from the University of New Haven where he completed an award-winning, multi-disciplinary research project on DNA preservation and recovery in unidentified human remains. Paul is currently pursuing a Doctor of Forensic Science from Oklahoma State University to develop a deeper understanding of forensic molecular biology and organizational leadership in the field of forensic science.

Through his education and current position with the City of Phoenix, Paul has had the privilege of acting as a leader and mentor for professional organizations. Currently, Paul is the Immediate Past President of the Phoenix LGBTQ Employee Alliance—a city wide organization that promotes and offers professional support and guidance to employees that identify as LGBTQ+ or an ally to the community. Through his lived experiences, Paul has become a strong leader in the realm of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEI-B). Additionally, he has implemented a new bylaws system for the alliance and designed new strategies to increase membership and organizational awareness. Additionally, Paul serves on two professional committees within the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)—the Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF) and the Diversity Outreach Committee (DOC). As a committee member, Paul has designed and led special sessions at annual conferences, designed website content, and designed new policy/procedure.

Paul would be honored to serve as a Board of Directors for SWAFS and continue to make a positive impact on the greater forensic science community. With his leadership skills and training/experience in forensic DNA analysis, bloodstain pattern analysis, unidentified human remains, and DEI-B practices, Paul would be an ideal candidate for this position.